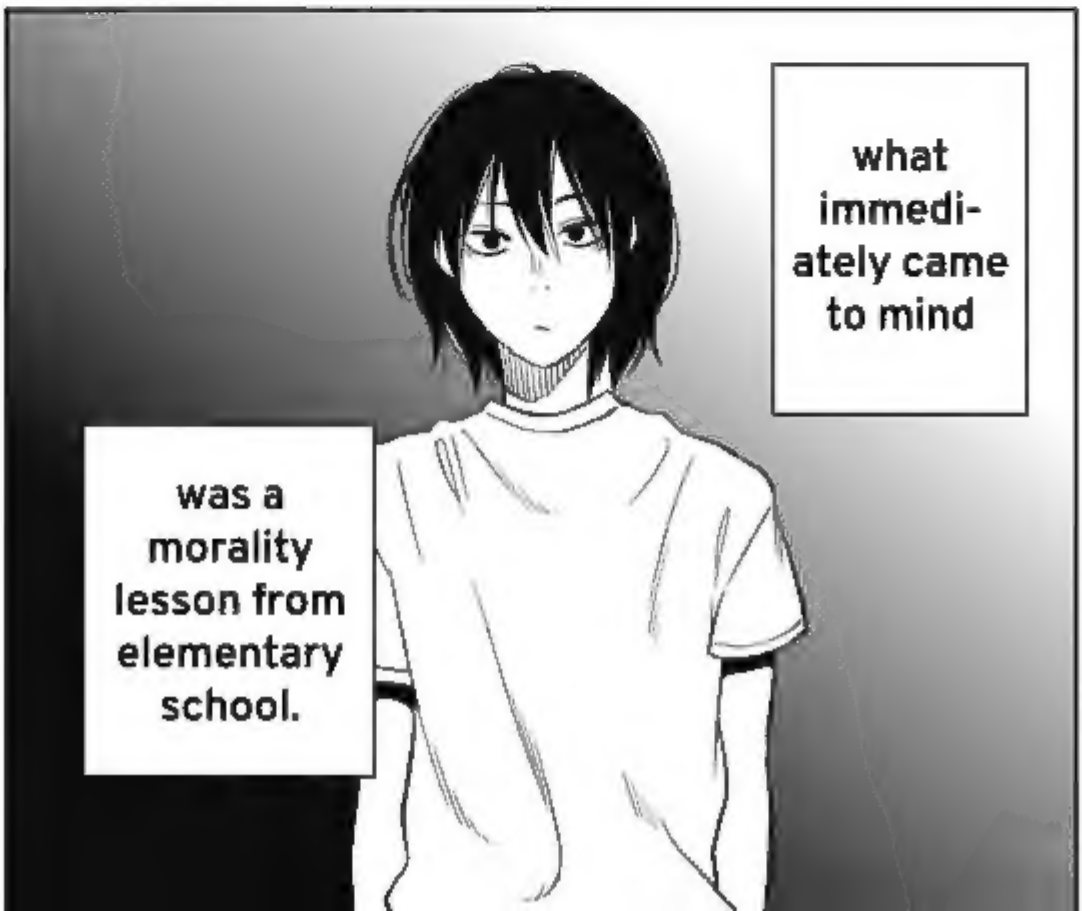
第2話
Chapter 2

I Sold Off My Lifespan, For 10,000 Yen A Year.

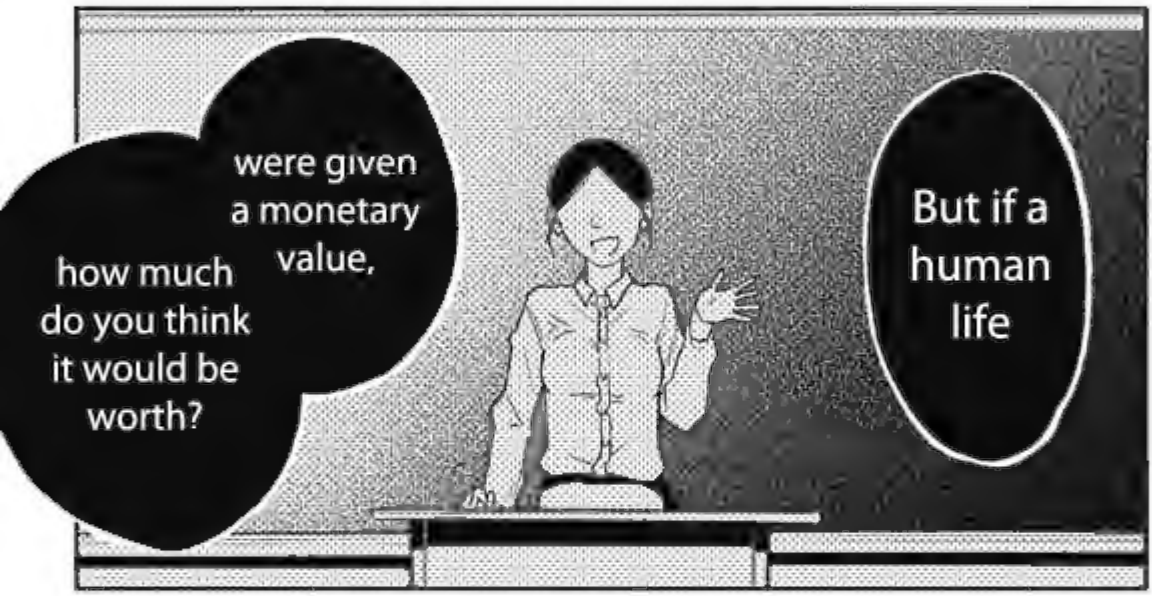
Original: Sugaru Miaki **Manga:** Shoichi Taguchi
("Three Days of Happiness" from Media Works Bunko)
Character Design: E9L / Shoichi Taguchi

原作：三秋縋（みあきすがる） 漫画：田口囁一（たぐちしょういち）
（メディアワークス文庫「三日間の幸福」）
キャラクターデザイン：E9L・田口囁一

When they first mentioned "selling lifespan,"
click clack
Your evaluation will take about three hours.

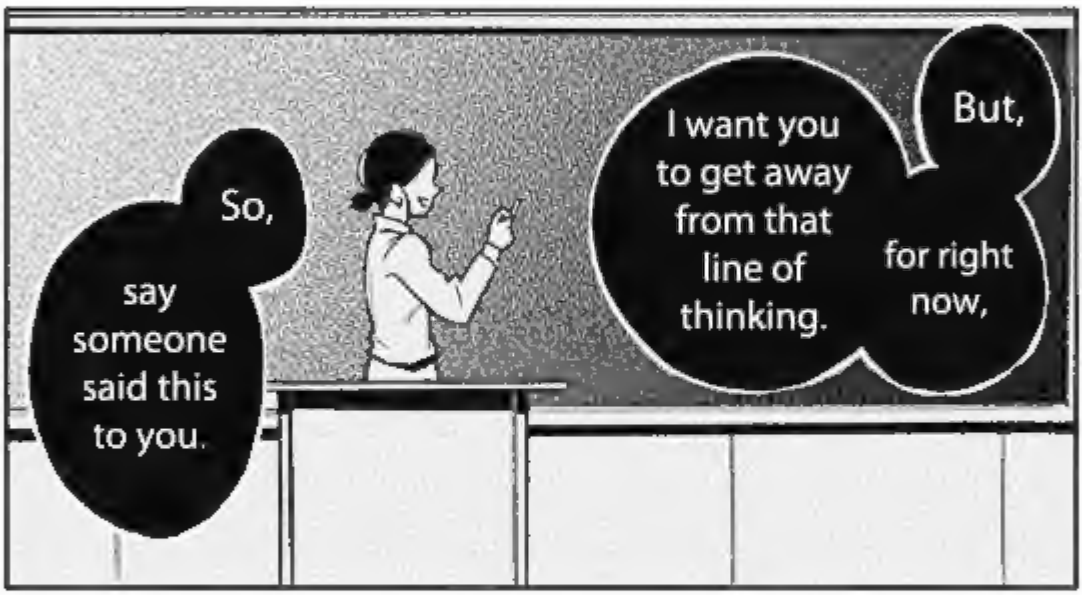

what immedi-ately came to mind
was a morality lesson from elementary school.

You've all been told
that it's something that can't be replaced,
and that it's more valuable than anything.


But if a human life
were given a monetary value,
how much do you think it would be worth?

I know.
A salaryman, over the course of their life,
That's what I read in a book once.
earns about 100 million to 300 million yen.
The class's biggest smart-aleck answered.

you might get that same answer.
Even if you asked an adult,
well...


So, say someone said this to you.
I want you to get away from that line of thinking.
But, for right now,

Would ya let me have it all for myself?"
"Hey. That life you're gonna lead...

You'd die, surely.
And what would happen if I did sell it?
So of course, you'd want to refuse this offer.
But it would keep hanging on.
"Well, just half is fine. Wanna just sell me thirty years off the sixty you have left?"
I get it.
If it went down like that, I really might feel like selling.

Now,
here's the question.
It would have to assign
a per-year value to your lifespan, yes?

I'll tell you in advance,
there's no right answer.
But I want to know how you came to your answer.
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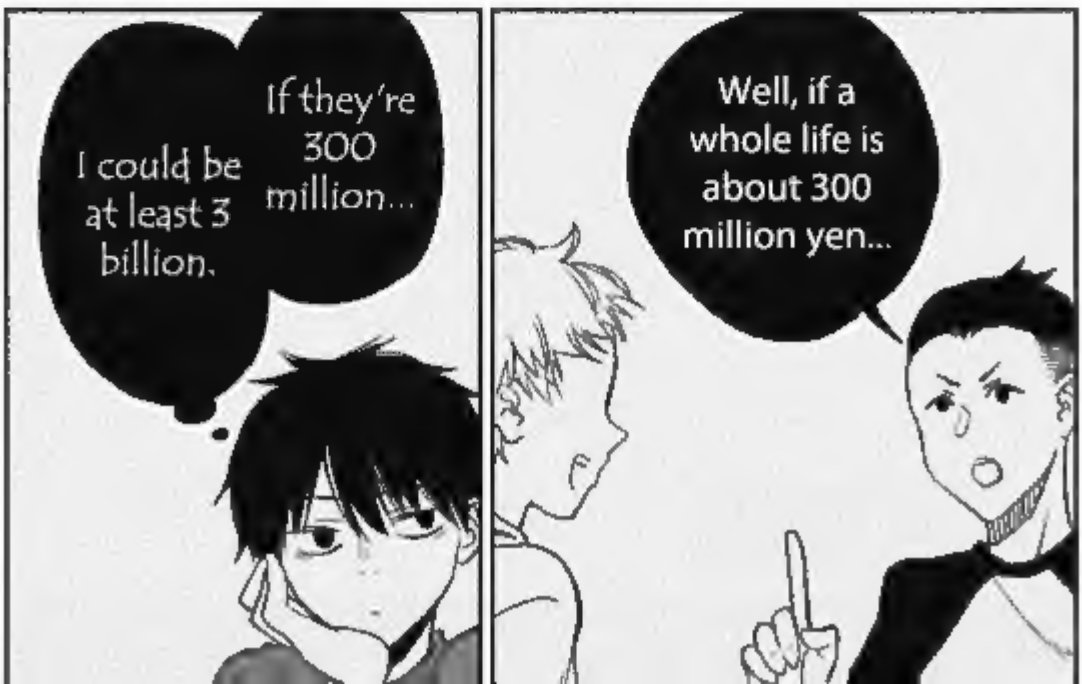
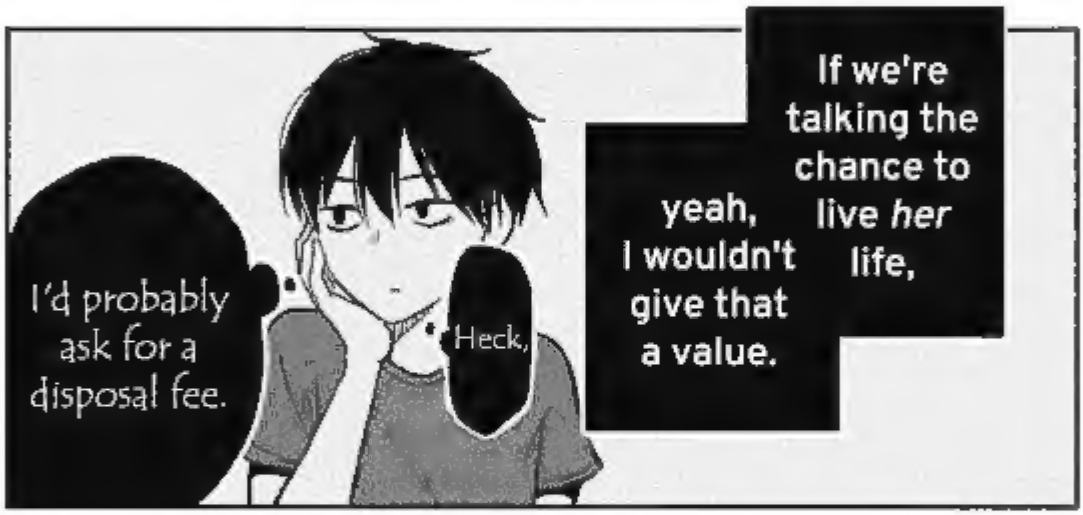
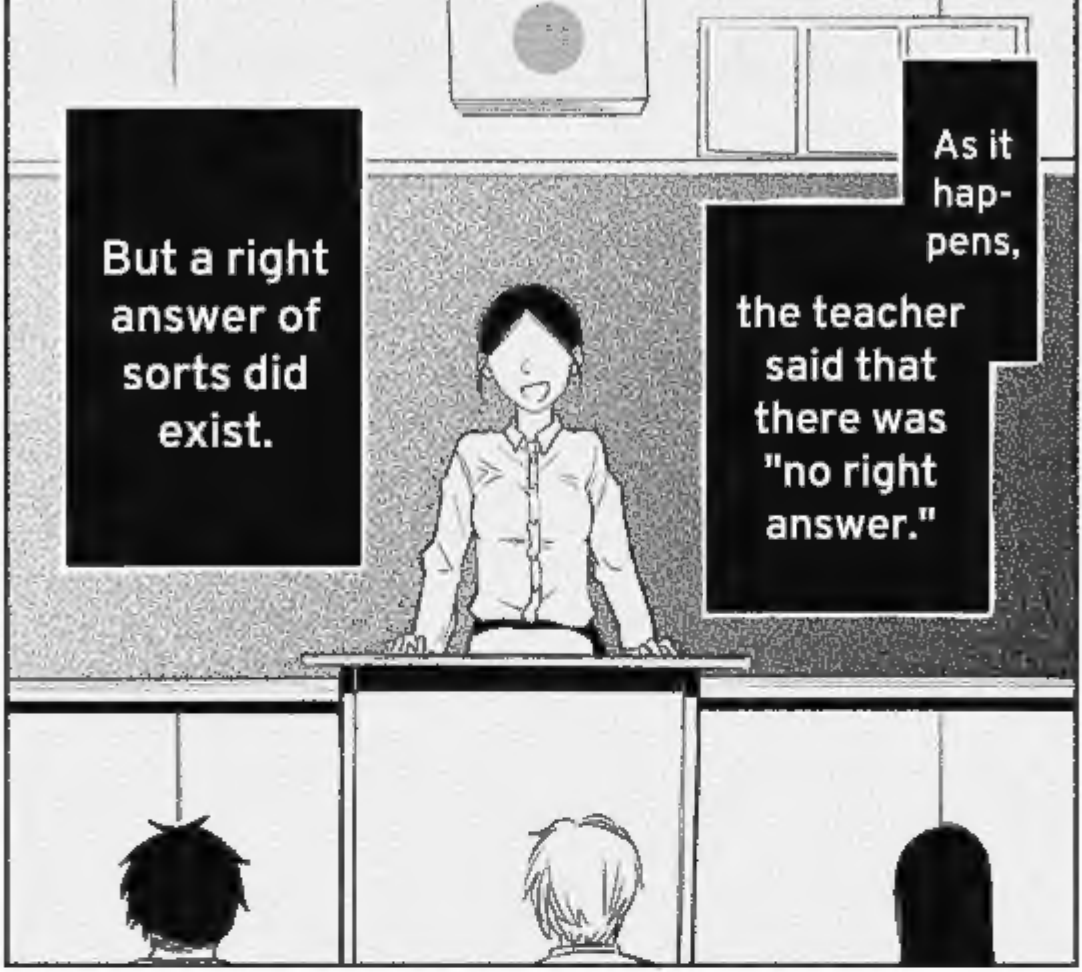
ざわ
murmur
ざわ

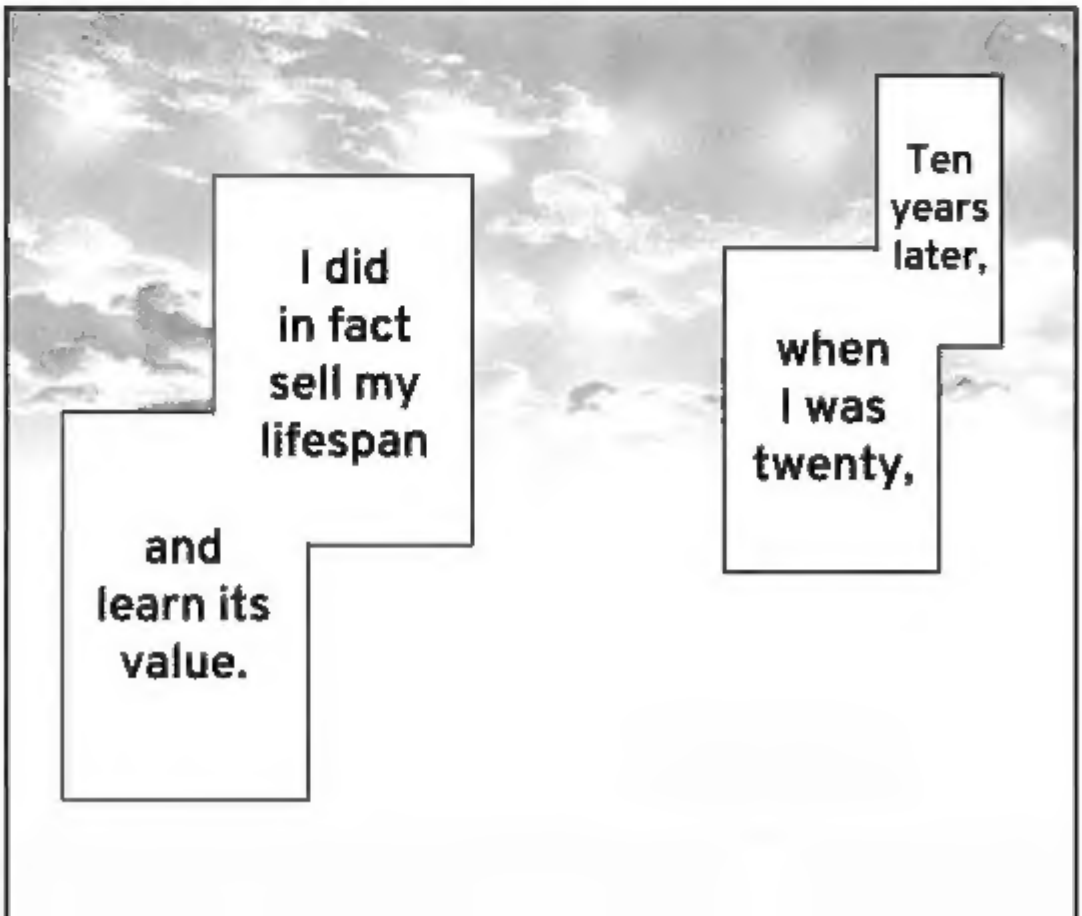

Well, if a whole life is about 300 million yen...
If they're 300 million...
I could be at least 3 billion.

...said one girl with gloomy prospects.
You can't assign a value to a person's life!


I'd probably ask for a disposal fee.
Heck,
yeah, I wouldn't give that a value.
If we're talking the chance to live *her* life,

thought similarly to me,
The wise-cracking clown you get in every class
and had a self-depre-cating laugh about it.
you guys wouldn't even pay 300 yen, would you?
But if I were selling my life,
Ha-ha-ha!


But a right answer of sorts did exist.
As it hap-pens,
the teacher said that there was "no right answer."


Ten years later,
when I was twenty,
I did in fact sell my lifespan
and learn its value.

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rumble...

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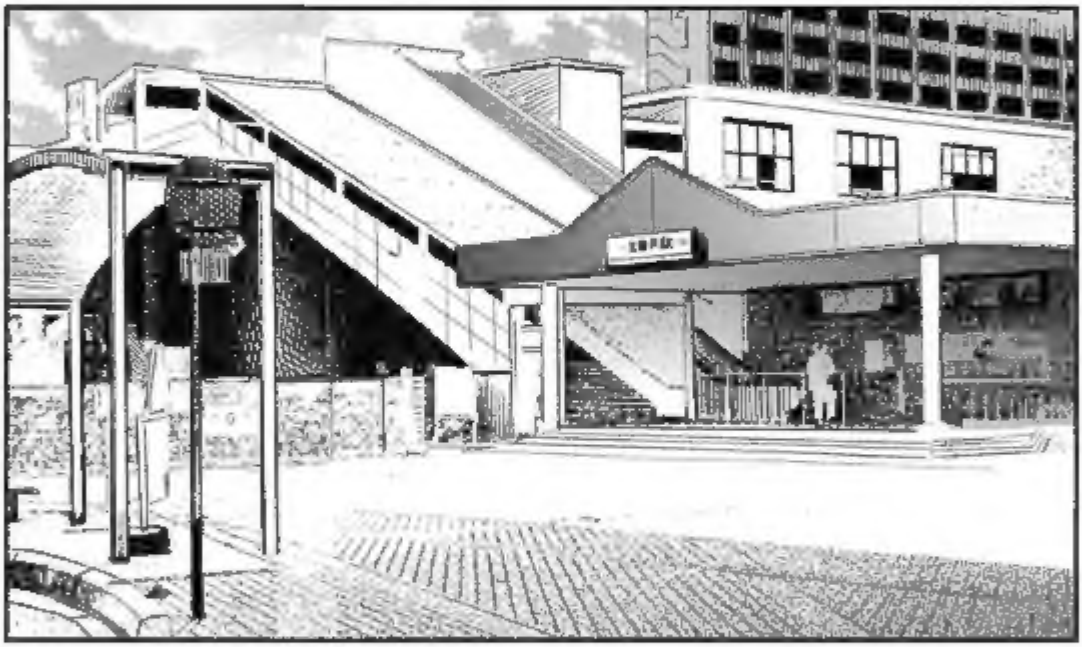
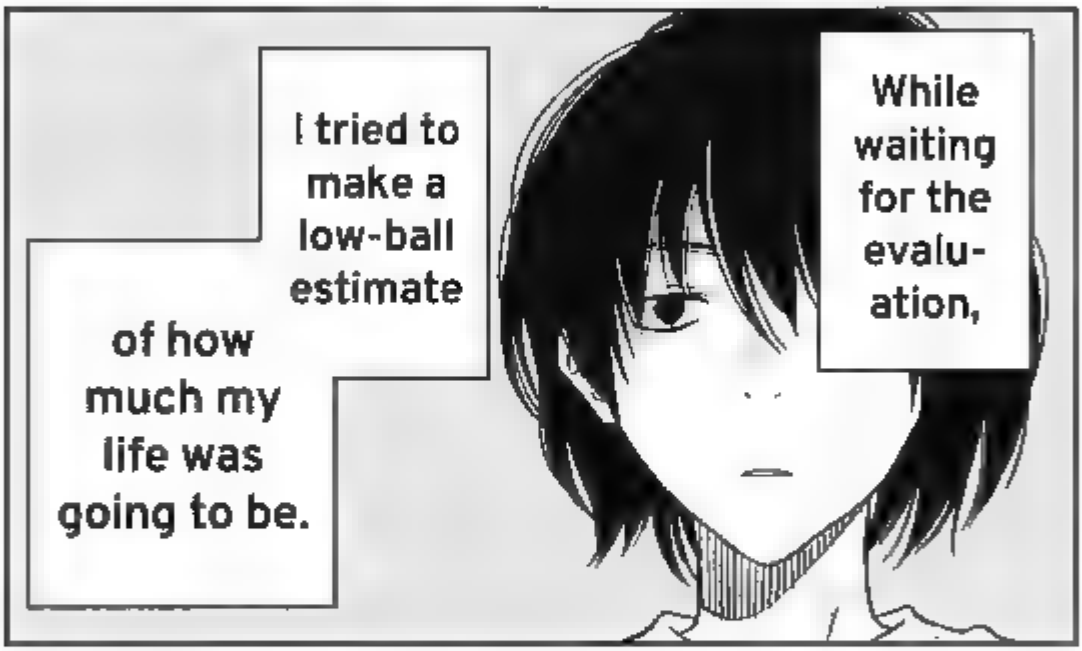
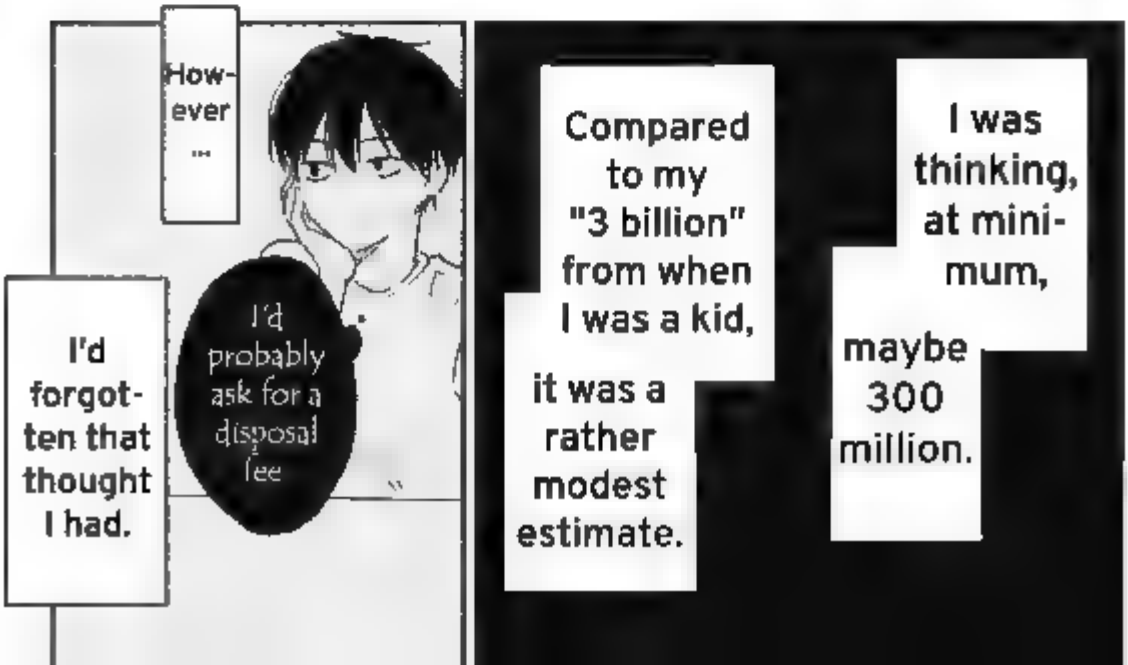
ALBION
会社
さんろーど
KIRIN



I hope it sells for a lot...


While waiting for the evalu-ation,
I tried to make a low-ball estimate of how much my life was going to be.


I was thinking, at mini-mum, maybe 300 million.
Compared to my "3 billion" from when I was a kid, it was a rather modest estimate.
How-ever ...
I'd probably ask for a disposal fee
I'd forgot-ten that thought I had.

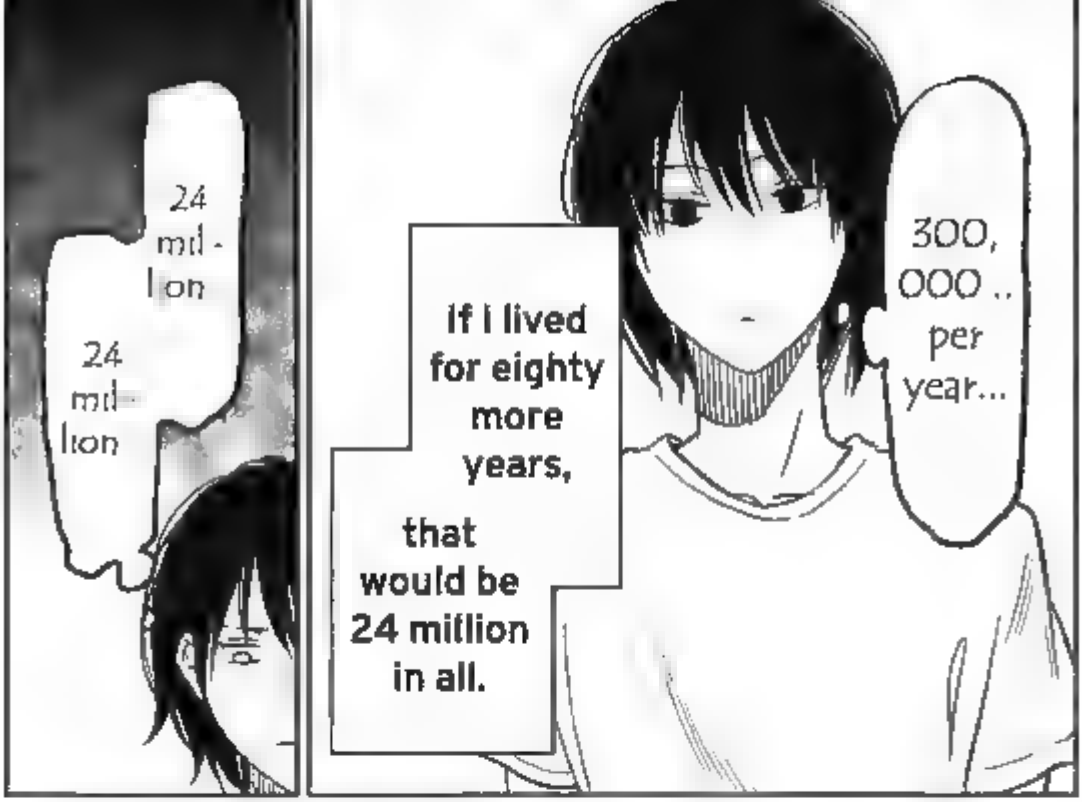
Your evaluation has been completed.
Mr. Kusunoki.
I didn't recall ever giving them my name,
or any form of identi-fication.
"Mr. Kusu-noki."
I guess that fol-lows,
since the business here goes beyond common sense.
And yet,
they knew it, some way or another.

...
3...

...

3 billion ...!!
My childhood estimate
was right on...!

clack
カタ
カタ
clack
...
zrrrrr
ニ" ニ" ニ" ニ"
These are your results...
Estimate
Mr Kusunoki
Estimated Value ¥300,000
What would you like to do?


300,
000 ..
per
year...
if I lived
for eighty
more
years,
that
would be
24 million
in all.
24
mil-
lion
24
mil-
lion

Surely that's
too cheap by
any means?

sigh...

...?

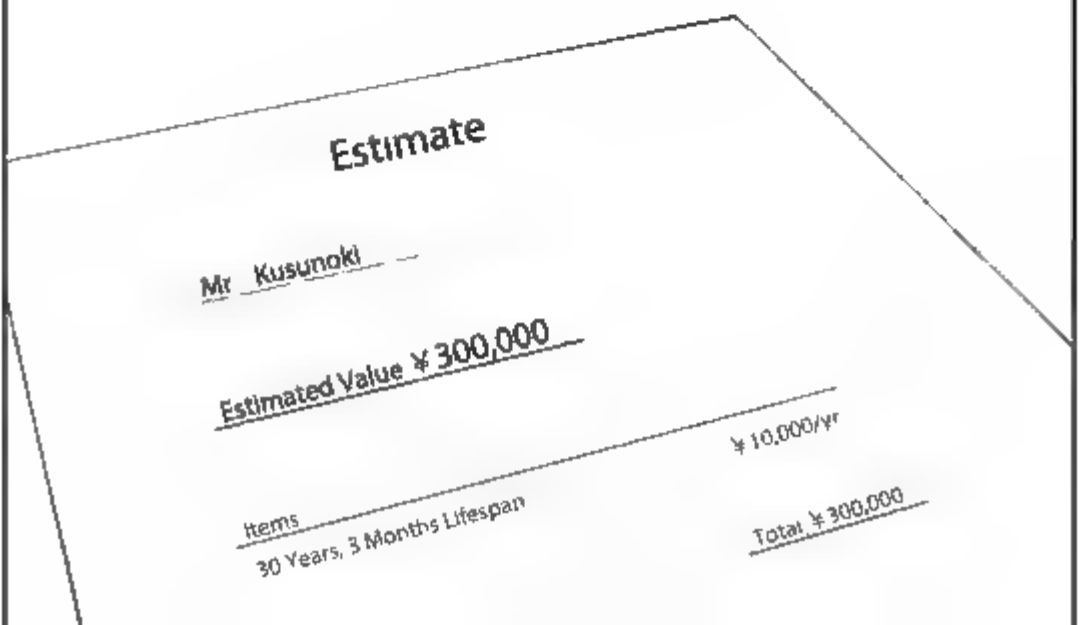
...
Concerning your per-year value...
I guess I'll just have to take 24 million.
...

You were given the bare minimum of *10,000 yen.*
And as you have thirty years and three months remaining...
You will be able
to leave here with up to *300,000 yen.*

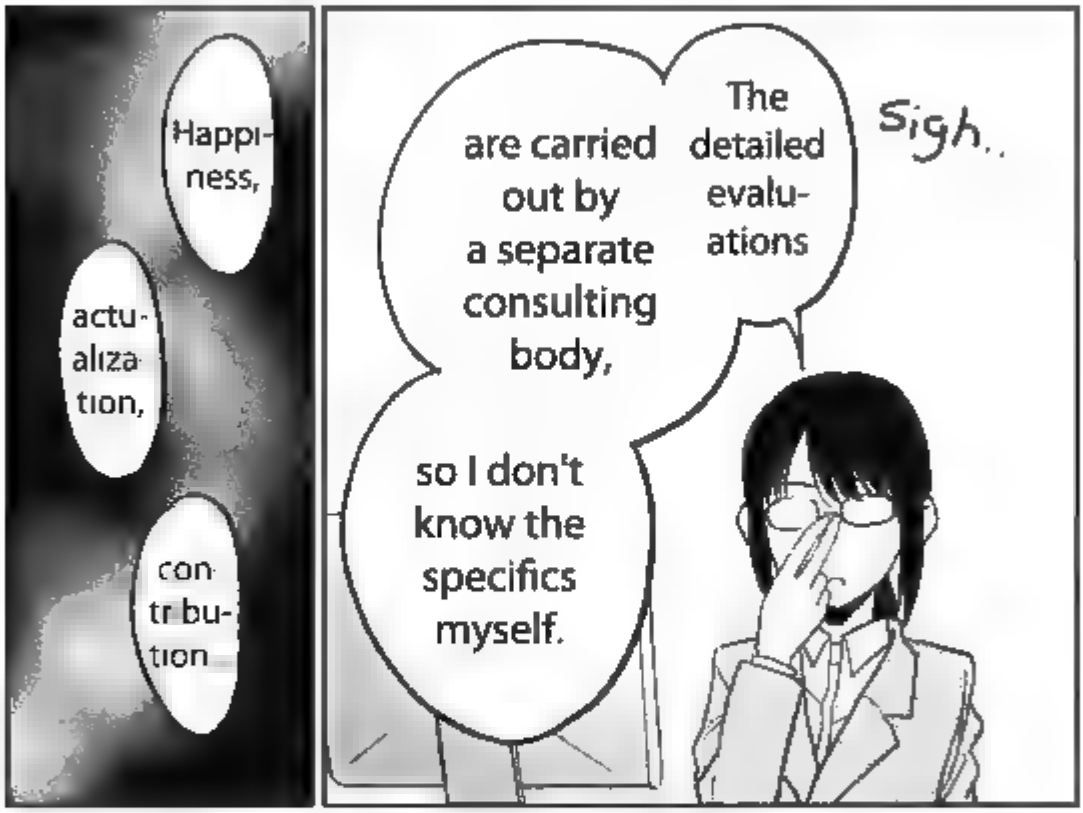
Hah...

There on the form
were my results,

an order of magnitude
below my expectations.



about your standards
...I want to know more


Happiness,
actualization,
contribution
Sigh..
The detailed evaluations are carried out by a separate consulting body,
so I don't know the specifics myself.

The degree to which such factors are present
can greatly affect the value.
Or so I hear.

How happy a life it is,
how it makes others happy,
In short,
the value of your remaining years is..
so on and so forth...
These things decide the value.
won't make anyone happy,
how much it contributes to society,
If I won't be happy,
how many dreams are achieved,
won't achieve any dreams,
won't contribute to society...
Where can I look to for salvation...?

Ulti-
mately,

I sold off
all thirty
years,

keeping
only three
months.

…

グビ

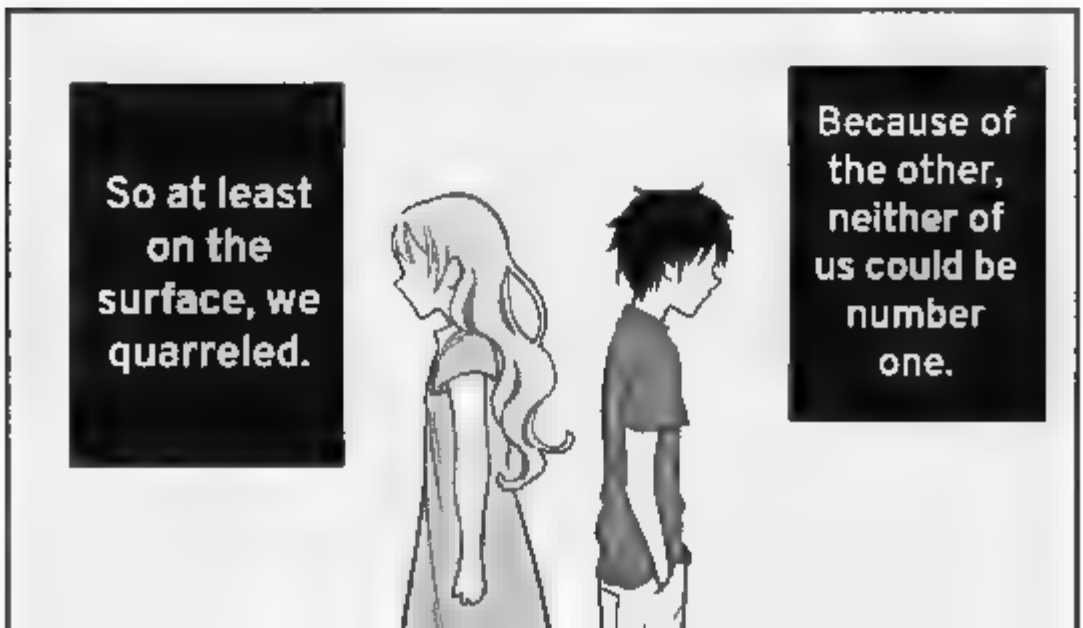
When I was a kid,

I thought I'd grow up to be famous.

I looked down on the children around me.

I always got perfect scores on tests,
but I wasn't the only one who could do that.

Yes,
so could that "smart-aleck,"
Hime-no.


Because of the other, neither of us could be number one.
So at least on the surface, we quarreled.

On the other hand,

we were the only ones who could talk to each other on our same level.

And in fact,

our houses were very close,

and our parents were friends,

so we'd played together since infancy.

I suppose the term "childhood friends" would apply.

Well,
in that case...
And...
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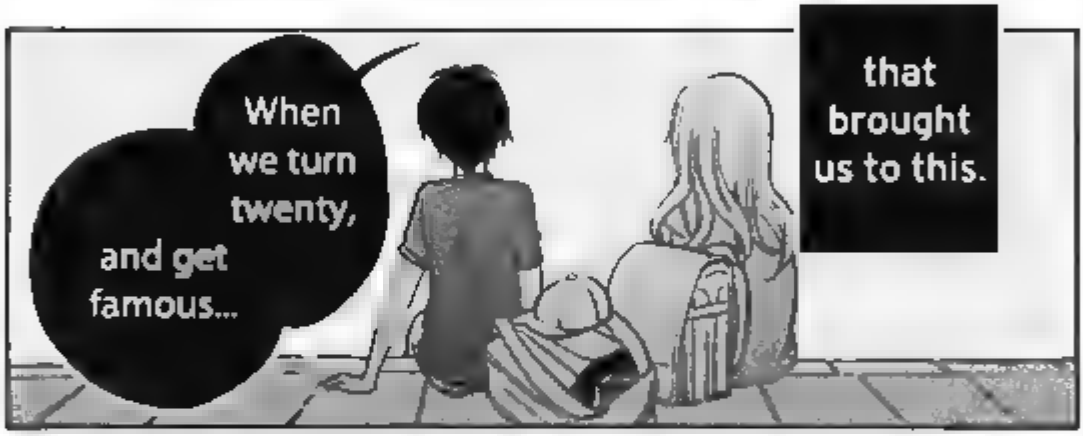
やき


When we turn twenty, and get famous...
that brought us to this.

we haven't found anyone we want to marry...
If that hap-pens...
If by then,
shameful as it is,

ピーンポーン
ding dong

Dam - mit Drank too much

And you would be...?
...

That's cor-rect.
You... evalu-ated my lifespan yesterday?
I'll serve as your observer from today forth.
My name is Miyagi.

since your lifespan is now less than a year,
While I also explained it yesterday,
I will be observing you starting today.
urk
Can this wait until later?
And so...
There-fore...
The last three months of my life began
thump
thump
Later, then.
in pretty much the worst possible way.
huuuuurk...
Under-stood.